

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3021
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2003
FUNCTIONS IN FARM HOUSES
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Delhi Municipal Corporation propose to ban all functions in farm houses as commercial activities pose traffic snarls at those venues as reported in the Times of India dated December 3, 2002;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government are aware of the High Court of Delhi banning all such commercial activities in the farm houses;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether despite the ban, large number of farm houses in Delhi, are still being used for commercial purposes, viz. holding of marriages, parties and other such functions; and
- (f) if so, the measures taken by the Government to enforce the ban and to take action against the farm house owners?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVATION (SIR) P. N. RADHAKRISHNA
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- (a)&(b): A public notice was issued by Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on 13.12.2002 in the leading Newspapers of Delhi regarding intention of carrying out intensive drive against misuses of Farm Houses and to warn all such farm house owners who indulge in commercial activities to the effect that the MCD will launch stern action against such violator from January-2003.
- (c): A public interest litigation (PIL) titled 'Common Cause Vs. Lt. Governor and others' was filed in High Court of Delhi seeking directions against MCD to stop misuse of farm houses for Banqueting and other commercial activities.
- (d): During hearing of above PIL, in CWP No.5509/1997, as per directions of Hon'ble High Court dt. 14.12.99, a policy was framed by MCD in consultation with Principal Secretary (UD) Government of Delhi, to take action against farm house owners under section 347 and 417 of DMC Act for misuse of farmhouses for banqueting and other commercial activities. However, this PIL was dismissed by High Court of Delhi on 30.3.2000.
- (e)&(f): As and when any commercial activity in any farm house is noticed, action against the same is taken by the MCD under the provisions of Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act.